

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,
Klauer Manufacturing Company Factory
301 Ninth Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-AS

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
13-AS-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

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Site Location: 301 Ninth Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 8.27
Cadastral grid : SE1/4 SE1/4 S24 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
Lot description: City Lot 509; Lots 1 and 2 of
Lot 1-1-4 of City Lot 509A;
Lot 2 of Lot 4 of City Lot 509A.
Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: warehouse
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 255'x 357'; two stories
Orientation : north
Architectural Description : Plan type : 2-story rectangular, open-space warehouse.
Foundation: (below grade)
Structure : wood frame with masonry bearing and fire walls.
Ext. walls: painted, common red brick laid in common bond.
Roofs : flat composition roof with brick parapet walls;
large projecting canopy over loading dock centered on west wall. Original building (now part of larger, later additions) featured moderately pitched, end gabled roof.
Chimneys : none visible.
Windows : plain openings with loose lintels and rowlock brick sills, containing industrial steel sash or glass block infill.
Openings : single-leaf main entrance on northwest corner, with metal canopy cantilevered from wall overhead; sectional garage doors with plain enframements located on all walls.
Details : corbeled brick pilasters on all walls: capped with corbeled brick courses on original sections and tapered concrete blocks on additions.

Construction Date : 1912; 1941; 1946; 1968; 1973; 1977

Architecture Style: 20th Century Functional

Physical History : In 1911 the Klauer Manufacturing Company purchased this property from the Knapp-Stout Lumber Company, which had used it as an open-air lumber yard. A year later the company built a one-story sheet metal factory on the site for the reported cost of \$12,000. The original 62'x 154' portion of this building, it faced Ninth Street (and today supports the south end of

the utility bridge over the street). Typical of its utilitarian function, the factory was a simply detailed brick structure with a single end-gabled roof, long, rectangular footprint and brick walls with regularly spaced pilasters and fenestration. Since 1940 the building has undergone no less than six major additions, which have increased its size severalfold and have covered all but the Ninth Street end wall of the original building.

Significance: Born November 28, 1842, in Coblenz, Germany, Peter Klauer immigrated to America with his parents in 1854. They moved immediately to Dubuque, where Klauer apprenticed to Thomas Heney in the tin trade five years later. In 1870 he and his brother opened a sheet metal shop on Iowa Street near the Central Market between 12th and 13th, manufacturing, selling and repairing cornices, stoves and furnaces on a limited basis. Klauer's business expanded steadily. In 1890 he incorporated the Klauer Manufacturing Company and two years later erected a three-story factory a block up the street from his original shop. In this building Klauer stamped out architectural sheet metal products such as ceilings, cornices, roofing, siding, conductor pipe, gutters, metal frames, furnaces, culverts and irrigation flumes. He maintained a retail outlet with his son-in-law A.P. Kress at his old plant to sell the products the company made. In 1903 Klauer acquired the immense factory of the defunct Iowa Iron Works on Ninth and Washington streets. By 1911, the company operated thirty divisions, each producing a separate type of architectural component. That year Klauer bought the property across Ninth Street from his existing factory. In 1912 he built the original portion of this building.

As a prosperous businessman and an active Democrat, Klauer ventured into other financial and political activities. In addition to the presidency of his own company, he was president of the German Trust and Savings Bank, vice president of the Iowa Coffin Company, city trustee, director of the city library, county supervisor and committee chairman for the courthouse erection. He participated actively in the Catholic Church and was president of the Alphonsus Society and the Shooting Club. Peter's son, William H. Klauer, joined his father in the business in 1887, succeeding the elder Klauer as president after his death c.1920. The Klauer Manufacturing Company remains in business today in this building. The structure is important in its association with one of the city's older surviving manufacturing companies, but its extensive additions in recent years have compromised its architectural integrity.

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Compiler:

Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado
December 1988.